What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method for recognizing visual obstructions in image sensor systems, an image recorded by an image sensor being analyzed, wherein the presence and, optionally, the type, of a visual obstruction is recognized by analysis of the recorded image, a signal being produced which indicates the presence and, optionally, the type, of visual obstruction.

2. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the recorded image is analyzed by measuring the blurriness of the image.

3. The method as recited in Claim 2, wherein the blurriness is measured based on the contrast spectrum of the image, or on the Fourier spectrum or the autocorrelation function of the image.

4. The method as recited in one of Claims 2 or 3, wherein a decision is made, based on the measured distribution of the blurriness by comparison with reference distributions, as to whether a visual obstruction, and, optionally, what visual obstruction, is present.

5. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein after an initial wiping operation on the windshield of a motor vehicle a decision is made to initiate the next wiping operation based on subsequently recorded images.

6. The method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the decision concerning the next wiping operation is made based on the blurriness of the instantaneously recorded images in comparison to the blurriness of an image which was recorded immediately after a wiping operation.

7. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein a windshield light is switched on when the scene

surrounding the vehicle contains too little contrast.

8. The method as recited in one of the preceding claims, wherein the image sensor is focused on the motor vehicle's external region.

9. A device for recognizing visual obstructions in image sensor systems, having an image sensor and an evaluation unit which analyzes the image recorded by the image sensor, wherein the evaluation unit outputs a signal which indicates the presence and, optionally, the type, of a visual obstruction, the signal being produced in accordance with the analysis of the recorded image.

10. The device as recited in Claim 9, wherein actuators, for example windshield wipers, windshield heating systems, windshield washer systems, etc., are controlled depending on the signal.